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Pondera and Custer County Producers Receive Funding for Disaster Program

Bozeman, MT – The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has received approximately \$150,000 in funding for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). The funds received are for Pondera and Custer county producers for projects related to drought and flood in August, 2007.

ECP provides financial assistance to supply emergency water in pastures where the previously adequate water source has failed. A failed water source must be located in the pasture where the new practice is being installed. To be eligible for ECP, a practice must primarily serve grazing land and have adequate vegetation for livestock grazing. Eligible practices are pipelines, tanks, troughs, constructing or deepening wells, and spring developments. Assistance is also available for the labor for delivering water; truck rental for delivering water, temporary holding tanks and troughs; and contracted labor for water delivery. Cost-share assistance is available up to 50 percent for permanent practices and up to 75 percent for temporary practices. All requests for ECP cost share are subject to the availability of funding.

ECP has been implemented for 2008 due to drought in the following counties: Blaine, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Glacier, Hill, Petroleum, Phillips, Prairie, Powder River, Richland, Sheridan, Wibaux. Funding for the 2008 program is still pending.

For further information regarding benefits from the Emergency Conservation Program logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.